LIBRARY
University of Florida

SUPPLEMENT TO
COMMERCE REPORTS

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS
ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Annual Series 63a No. 63a December 19, 1919

ALGERIA.

By Consul Arthur C. Frost, Algiers.

The northern territory of Algeria, or what may be termed Algeria proper, comprises the Departments of Algiers, Oran, and Constantine. The cities of Algiers, Oran, and Constantine are, in the order named, the principal cities of the colony. The population at the latest census (1911) was 5,069,522, consisting of 4,259,474 Mohammedans, 746,510 Europeans (including military and naval forces), and special classes numbering 63,538.

Algeria embraces three distinct regions which extend more or less parallel with the coast—the Tell, the high plateau, and the desert. The Tell has a good rainfall and is a district of great fertility. Its climate is like that of southern France, although somewhat warmer. This district, which was a highly productive province in Roman times, has become under French rule a great agricultural region today. Wine is the important crop of the Tell, but the district is by no means a one-crop region, as it produces also tobacco, citrous fruits, olives, carobs, figs, early fruits, and vegetables. The profits made by the wine industry have led to a great extension of the cultivation of grapes, to the detriment of other crops relatively less profitable. The high plateau, or the belt between the Tell and the desert, is an excellent wheat country; the less watered regions are devoted to pasturage, especially for sheep. Dates form the chief article of commerce, as well as the principal food product, of the inhabitants of the desert regions.

Politically Algeria occupies a somewhat anomalous position, being regarded in some respects as a colony and in others as an integral part of France. It has a Governor General, distinctive colonial bureaus, and a restricted franchise. Since 1901 it has had a separate budget, controlled by elective bodies, the Financial Delegations and the Superior Council. French laws are made applicable to Algeria by decrees of the Governor General. The colony is organized as three departments of France, each department having a prefect and being represented by one senator and two deputies in the French Parliament.

Except for a few articles, Algeria enjoys free trade with France. The carrying trade between Algeria and France was confined to the French flag until May 29, 1915, when, as a war measure, foreign vessels were admitted into the trans-Mediterranean traffic.

Foreign Commerce of Algeria.

The total foreign commerce of Algeria for the year 1918 attained the value of $293,360,000, ($137,030,000 representing imports and $156,330,000 exports), exceeding the total commerce of 1917 by

$38,986,000 and of 1916 by $75,077,000. Excluding the merchandise reexported or in transit, amounting to $38,042,037, the foreign commerce of Algeria amounted in 1918 to $255,317,963, imports being valued at $118,493,701 and exports at $136,824,262. Imports were greater in value than those of 1917 by $12,394,267, but less than those of 1916 by $15,186,591. Exports were valued at only $218,476 more than those of 1917, but showed an increase of $14,915,233 over 1916.

The value of the trade of Algeria with France and with all countries during 1917 and 1918 is shown by classes of goods in the following table:

Items.	1917		1918	
	Trade with France.	Trade with all countries.	Trade with France.	Trade with allcountries.
IMPORTS.				
Animal products	$3,490,000	$4,877,000	$4,317,000	$5,486,000
Vegetable products	14,869,000	23,950,000	13,722,000	22,650,000
Mineral products	4,603,000	15,651,000	7,305,000	18,226,000
Manufactures	52,814,000	61,622,000	53,184,000	72,132,000
Total	75,776,000	106,100,000	78,528,000	118,494,000
EXPORTS.				
Animal products	12,903,000	14,378,000	12,234,000	13,871,000
Vegetable products	93,001,000	105,505,000	96,555,000	109,600,000
Mineral products	3,147,000	10,932,000	2,673,000	8,401,000
Manufactures	2,095,000	5,791,000	1,558,000	4,952,000
Total	111,146,000	136,606,000	113,020,000	136,824,000

Chief Articles of Import.

The leading imports in 1918 were, in the order named, cotton fabrics, coal, sugar, wood manufactures, perfumes and soaps, chemical products, coffee, paper and manufactures, thread and cordage, machines and machinery, metal products, jute fabrics, and dairy products. Of these, cotton fabrics, coal, thread and cordage, and metal products showed gains in volume, though relatively small; the other imports mentioned showed decreases. Other noticeable decreases occurred in dried vegetables and potatoes, petroleum, olive oil, and iron and steel bars, wire, and sheets.

The quantity and value of the chief articles of import into Algeria from all countries during the years of 1917 and 1918 are given below:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Alcohol and spirits	[a] 127,436	$459,340	[a] 41,343	$523,223
Alcoholic beverages:				
Beer	[a] 269,005	98,623	[a] 64,584	25,669
Liquors	[a] 25,836	110,782	[a] 15,480	111,554
Wine	[a] 340,331	566,841	[a] 221,088	689,782
Animals:				
Horses	[b] 1,078	200,141	[b] 466	89,166
Mules	[b] 1,896	370,946	[b] 1,399	292,781
Other	[b] 85,701	695,572	[b] 47,734	444,865
Arms and ammunition	338	352,032	562	660,253
Automobiles and other vehicles		191,456		106,343
Building materials	32,412	745,752	24,074	639,216
Candles	1,974	702,134	844	668,938
Chemical products	22,795	3,898,986	19,870	3,798,819

[a] Gallons. [b] Number.

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Chestnuts	813	$75,270	241	$32,424
Chicory, burnt and ground	360	198,211	713	316,713
Chocolate	941	644,620	292	223,108
Cinnamon and cassia lignea	19	11,966	31	37,442
Cloves	23	18,721	28	40,337
Coal	228,262	8,310,387	231,431	10,288,444
Coffee	8,019	2,949,040	6,962	3,384,062
Colors, inks, and varnishes	740	237,197	660	312,660
Dairy products	1,660	1,444,605	1,111	2,134,773
Dyes, prepared	19	19,686	11	18,528
Fabrics:				
Alpaca, hair, etc	6	9,650	9	18,142
Cotton	9,103	11,185,701	10,118	20,080,878
Jute	6,409	2,346,301	4,116	2,253,854
Linen, hemp, and ramie	97	76,235	158	151,595
Silk	13	77,779	14	84,148
Wool	78	196,860	192	423,249
Fats	530	208,247	381	263,638
Fertilizer, organic	174	21,809	131	19,493
Fish, dried, salted, and preserved	1,064	455,287	536	313,154
Fruits, fresh and dried	2,192	311,502	3,210	646,550
Grain and grain products	2,121	282,745	357	45,741
Hides and skins:				
Green and dried	381	157,102	396	167,524
Prepared	950	1,159,351	960	1,539,175
Iron and steel bars, sheets, wire, etc	23,424	2,736,354	9,653	1,724,648
Jewelry and clocks	22	36,477	23	51,145
Leather, manufactures	.....	639,795	.....	428,846
Lumber	22,118	1,632,394	13,214	1,369,335
Machines, machinery, and parts	3,139	1,635,868	3,117	2,351,126
Marble	677	49,408	1,013	74,305
Mat and basket work	514	115,028	549	170,033
Matches and matchwood	104	63,301	.....	.....
Meats:				
Canned	310	190,491	125	106,150
Salted, etc	358	254,760	89	110,080
Medicinal compounds	181	163,085	166	191,263
Medicinal roots and herbs	195	74,498	277	130,661
Metal products	4,579	1,685,855	5,307	2,261,574
Oils:				
Heavy	2,689	641,918	2,994	1,003,214
Mineral	[a] 3,121,307	1,809,375	[a] 2,185,403	1,616,182
Olive	3,020	1,123,839	667	344,698
From seeds	2,405	866,377	1,326	927,558
Ore:				
Copper	150	161,155	907	563,367
Lead	366	100,167	215	62,146
Tin	57	58,479	50	96,307
Zinc	120	56,163	46	25,283
Paper, and manufactures	8,950	2,285,699	7,710	3,060,401
Pepper and pimentos	415	194,737	286	285,447
Perfumes and soaps	10,766	3,457,209	8,918	5,225,475
Plants	2,273	780,106	1,640	419,968
Pottery, glassware, etc	6,001	782,229	4,891	898,863
Rice and rice flour	3,029	570,894	3,503	876,220
Rubber and gutta-percha goods	327	446,795	421	435,408
Seeds and fruits (for their oil)	1,581	162,313	1,178	156,137
Seeds for sewing	120	22,967	45	19,300
Silk	55	340,452	118	941,454
Sirups, candies, cakes, etc	899	420,354	337	232,179
Sugar	32,784	8,323,897	28,025	8,166,795
Sulphur	10,002	690,940	14,525	1,736,228
Tea	311	291,430	329	551,401
Thread and cordage	2,389	1,760,546	3,466	2,511,424
Tobacco:				
Leaf and stalks	1,240	577,649	964	557,191
Manufactures	.....	46,706	.....	38,214
Toys, sporting goods, brushes, etc	470	320,766	265	220,985
Vegetables:				
Fresh and preserved	575	185,087	604	247,233
Dried and meal (including potatoes)	19,404	1,935,018	11,144	1,120,365
Waters, mineral	1,084	99,974	678	64,655
Wearing apparel	414	436,952	278	457,217
Wood manufactures	65,998	11,018,177	27,954	6,298,169
Wool, raw and waste	1,005	362,647	865	395,650
Parcel-post shipments	.....	15,225,191	.....	16,482,586
All other articles	.....	2,475,032	.....	2,670,734
Total	.....	106,099,434	.....	118,493,701

[a] Gallons.

Export Trade by Articles.

Leading exports from Algeria in 1918, named in the order of their importance, were wine, spirits, grain, fresh fruits, tobacco, dried vegetables, animals, bran and fodder, iron ore, and hides and skins. Marked gains occurred in mandarins and dates, bran, wool, tobacco, spirits, and grains. All the others mentioned showed a decline, especially notable in shipments of ordinary wine, sheep, sheepskins, dried beans, and iron ore.

The table below gives the total quantity and value of the principal articles exported from Algeria during the years 1917 and 1918:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Alcoholic beverages	[a] 158,752,475	$69,944,165	[a] 82,401,666	$57,409,780
Alfa	37,343	603,125	11,819	334,469
Animals:				
Asses	[b] 826	7,913	[b] 113	4,053
Horses	[b] 109	17,370	[b] 71	11,773
Mules	[b] 606	81,446	[b] 264	30,301
Other	[b] 683,352	6,471,483	[b] 274,954	3,277,526
Bran and fodder	65,318	1,797,409	69,267	2,425,431
Building material	14,581	218,476	16,306	447,181
Cork, charcoal, etc	21,404	1,449,623	15,241	1,071,729
Cork manufactures	229	51,338	719	116,186
Cotton, ginned	27	21,318	72	50,566
Eggs	2,725	1,040,463	2,136	1,165,527
Fabrics:				
Cotton	110	244,145	90	278,885
Silk	2	12,738	3	23,353
Woolen	31	59,444	23	69,094
Fats, animal	101	36,863	60	39,951
Fiber, vegetable	18,699	616,249	8,474	298,185
Fish, fresh, dried, and preserved	3,959	1,188,301	3,659	1,254,500
Fruits, fresh and dried, and nuts	62,181	7,421,236	50,214	10,649,161
Grains and grain products	190,563	11,219,283	258,802	22,115,677
Hair	361	206,317	279	137,030
Hides and skins:				
Green and dry	3,824	2,543,547	2,183	1,854,151
Prepared	136	194,158	118	227,710
Leather manufactures		657,744		239,706
Machines and machinery	828	208,440	330	187,789
Matches	387	256,111	294	268,849
Medicinal roots, herbs, etc	375	75,077	186	56,549
Metal products	1,220	301,554	515	181,034
Oils:				
Olive	2,373	823,917	495	243,180
Other	36	145,329	25	218,283
Ore:				
Antimony	19,248	1,073,466	7,920	271,358
Copper	870	75,270		
Iron	1,065,512	2,935,144	782,047	2,425,431
Lead	25,316	1,626,604	17,891	1,262,992
Mercury, native	16	30,494	15	44,776
Zinc	36,398	1,713,647	29,288	1,625,639
Paper and manufactures	141	61,181	223	74,498
Phosphates:				
Natural	234,825	1,296,960	202,539	1,147,192
Superphosphates	554	25,476	13,402	190,298
Pottery, glass, and crystal ware	298	41,390	282	67,936
Rags	1,636	213,844	1,268	226,968
Salt, sea and rock	2,295	28,371	9,678	85,306
Sausage casings	42	17,756	18	21,423
Scrap:				
Copper	168	87,815	161	115,993
Iron and steel	1,697	165,594	4,100	281,201
Seeds and fruits (for their oil)	1,212	137,030	939	130,661
Seeds:				
For sowing	93	12,545	122	32,810
Millet and canary	2,128	252,071	803	64,655
Soap	304	61,567	202	87,236
Tan bark	4,807	234,881	3,592	246,654
Tartar, crude	1,846	538,084	834	414,371
Thread	112	66,585	82	49,022
Tobacco:				
Leaf and stalks	2,132	740,734	6,729	3,262,086
Manufactures		3,357,621		5,183,980

[a] Gallons. [b] Number.

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Metric tons.	Value.	Metric tons.	Value.
Toys, sporting goods, etc	55	$45,355	27	$34,547
Vegetables:				
Dried and meal	36,477	4,561,748	25,863	4,115,725
Fresh	10,904	953,613	5,141	602,160
Vehicles	482	200,720	317	113,677
Wax	62	48,057	79	57,321
Wearing apparel	213	312,081	209	450,848
Wine lees	3,023	239,127	1,426	229,863
Wood	8,874	495,817	4,558	461,463
Wood manufactures	1,174	148,417	395	103,641
Wool, raw and waste	2,507	2,051,397	5,734	5,196,911
Parcel-post shipments		994,915		945,700
All other articles		3,886,827		2,512,321
Total		136,605,786		136,824,262

New System of Compiling Customs Statistics.

By a decree dated October 25, 1916, a new system for compiling customs statistics was introduced. Up to 1916 the value of imports and exports was determined by annual appraisements. For imports the appraisements were made by the Commission Permanente des Valeurs at Paris and for exports by a similar commission at Algiers. The decree in question provides for compiling customs statistics in accordance with the declared value of the merchandise.

The marked divergence in the results obtained by the two systems may be seen by the following comparison of the commercial movement of 1917 as determined by the two methods: Imports, appraised value $131,173,608, declared value $106,099,434; exports, appraised value $163,661,491, declared value $136,605,786; total trade, appraised value $294,835,099, declared value $242,705,220. It is the intention of the customs authorities to maintain the two systems until experience has demonstrated which is the more feasible in arriving at the true value.

Trade with the United States.

Figures showing the quantity of imports from the United States for the years 1917 and 1918, especially prepared for this consulate by the customs authorities, are given below. Statistics of value are not yet available.

Articles.	1917	1918	Articles.	1917	1918
	Metric tons.	*Metric tons.*		*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Chemical products	78	29	Oleomargarine		2
Fats, animal	3	4	Paper and manufactures		1
Flax, New Zealand	496	286	Rice and rice products		57
Glassware	1	2	Rubber and gutta-percha goods	1	
Glucose	15	5	Spirits of all kinds	[a] 6,023	
Grain and flour	5	1	Sugar, raw and refined	472	2
Iron and steel	5,073	140	Tobacco, leaf	421	152
Jute sacks	7	3	Vehicles		1
Leather and leather goods	1		Vessels, wooden		953
Machines and machinery	449	58	Wearing apparel	2	4
Meats	102	7	Wood, common	686	121
Metal products and tools	265	198	Wood manufactures	74	2
Milk, butter, and cheese	17		Parcel-post shipments	[b] 40	[b] 13
Oils:					
Heavy and fuel	62				
Mineral	[a] 3,073,095	[a] 1,984,237			

[a] Gallons. [b] Number

The quantity and value of the exports to the United States, as invoiced at the American consulate at Algiers and the consular agency at Oran, during 1917 and 1918, were as follows:

Articles.	1917		1918	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
FROM ALGIERS.				
Argols and crude tartar....pounds..	840,143	$175,678	556,098	$152,579
Bones		7,419		
Brierwood		69,614		120,041
Cork waste....pounds..	5,063,642	68,537	4,576,522	56,500
Corkwood....do....	3,739,349	139,181	2,212,519	108,434
Eucalyptus leaves		3,014		2,253
Glue stock		10,554		1,392
Herbs n. e. s		2,823		
Hides and skins		42,632		
Oil, geranium....pounds..	4,527	13,777	1,105	6,199
Sausage casings		3,521		24,622
Total		536,750		472,020
FROM ORAN.				
Argols and crude tartar....pounds..	1,617,816	147,739	699,683	84,094
Earth, infusorial....tons..	484	2,849		
Glue stock		914		1,499
Hides and skins....pounds..	128,063	31,051		
Total		182,553		86,193

Maritime Movement at Algerian Ports.

The extent of the maritime movement at the various ports of Algeria during the year 1918 is shown in the following table:

Ports.	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Number.	Tonnage of vessels.	Goods unloaded, tons.	Number.	Tonnage of vessels.	Goods loaded, tons.
Algiers	1,044	937,143	263,829	1,031	937,593	540,870
Arzew	141	50,425	7,416	141	50,428	54,381
Beni-Saf	163	179,779	4,648	159	179,706	418,603
Bona	608	358,148	49,767	611	361,111	284,265
Bougie	491	126,162	6,381	496	131,557	167,438
Collo	369	23,238	2,459	371	23,109	2,790
Djidjelli	505	40,063	215	510	40,142	5,582
Mostaganem	133	39,158	13,118	130	37,691	33,922
Nemours	86	7,447		86	7,447	
Oran	1,165	784,006	221,480	1,171	791,653	327,219
Phillippeville	655	216,721	33,387	661	223,109	83,882
Total	5,360	2,762,290	602,700	5,367	2,783,546	1,918,952

During the year 48 vessels, of 89,642 tons, called at Algiers for supplies, and 82 vessels, of 173,675 tons, at Oran.

Agricultural Output Large.

The agricultural year 1917–18 was characterized by favorable weather condition. The French Government made a special appeal to the colony to increase its agricultural output, so far as possible, to remedy the general shortage in France. Under the incentive of the high Government price, the cereal production was by far the greatest yet obtained in the colony. In the Department of Algiers particularly the rainfall was beneficial for this crop. Production was good in

the Sersou region, as well as in the Cheliff Valley and along the coast. In the Departments of Oran and Constantine also the yield was much above the average.

The great problem has been not of production but of transportation, as the unprecedented crop of 1918 severely taxed railway facilities, greatly impaired as they were by deterioration during the war, the insufficiency of rolling stock, and the labor shortage.

The following table gives the production of hard and soft wheat, barley, and oats for the past three years:

Crops.	1916	1917	1918
	Metric tons.	*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Wheat:			
Hard	547,615	386,730	1,016,214
Soft	245,763	243,335	338,423
Barley	783,150	621,157	1,322,525
Oats	190,734	234,056	332,605

Cultivation of Early Fruits and Vegetables.

The cultivation of early fruits and vegetables for France, already an important agricultural pursuit before the war, has been considerably extended during the past few years under the stimulus of the high prices prevailing in the French market. Peas, beans, lentils, string beans, and especially potatoes have been raised in large quantities. Inadequate ocean tonnage, however, has disastrously affected the prosperity of this industry. Ten thousand tons of potatoes alone could not be exported for lack of tonnage. Despite this circumstance, however, potatoes sold in the local market for as much as 15 cents a pound. The exports of fresh vegetables, with the exception of potatoes, declined heavily in 1918 on account of the limited shipping space.

Citrous fruits (lemons, oranges, and mandarins) yielded well and were shipped in large quantities to France, particularly for the use of the various Allied Armies. The shipments of mandarins were especially heavy. Exports of fresh grapes greatly declined by reason of the extreme scarcity of tonnage at the time of the harvest.

No statistics are available as to the actual production of fruits and vegetables, but, owing to the large proportion of the crops sent to France, the exportation, apart from the tonnage problem, is a fair gauge of production. The quantity of the principal fruits and vegetables exported in 1917 and 1918 is shown below:

Fruits and vegetables.	1917	1918	Fruits and vegetables.	1917	1918
	Metric tons.	*Metric tons.*		*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Lemons and oranges	3,394	3,426	String beans	2,322	266
Mandarins	6,867	9,216	Peas	543	229
Grapes	3,107	584	Tomatoes	1,993	719
Artichokes	4,535	2,814	Potatoes	10,190	11,815
Beans	161	147			

Production and Shipments of Minerals—Fisheries.

The approximate production of the mines of Algeria amounted in 1918 to 1,041,817 metric tons and in 1917 to 1,026,687 tons, of which one-fourth was iron ore. The average monthly production during 1917 and 1918 may be estimated as follows: Iron, 82,500 and 74,260

metric tons, respectively; iron pyrites, 360 and 1,040 tons; lead, 1,932 and 960 tons; and zinc, 3,294 and 1,550 tons. During the first half of 1918, owing to the high price of coal, 1,606 metric tons of lignite were produced, but as the situation improved, operations during the second half of the year were discontinued.

Inasmuch as the export of minerals has been exceeded by production, owing to tonnage scarcity, large stocks remain at the mines and on the docks. The production and shipments of minerals during 1918 and the stocks on hand on December 31, 1918, are given by departments in the following table:

Minerals.	Production.	Exports.	Stocks on hand.
ORAN.	*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*	*Metric tons.*
Iron	479,148	455,063	489,056
ALGIERS.			
Iron	271,033	238,073	91,015
Lead	844	743	142
Zinc	4,947	4,232	5,997
CONSTANTINE.			
Antimony	7,229	a 7,110	6,317
Iron	127,305	88,911	59,482
Lead	12,216	17,148	2,067
Phosphates	189,419	202,519	213,761
Iron pyrites	14,378	a 9,762	3,382
Zinc	15,316	25,056	8,968

a Excluding the quarter ended Mar. 31, 1918.

Except in the district of Algiers, a smaller number of vessels were engaged in fishing in 1918 than in 1917. The value of the catch was 14 per cent larger than that of 1917, showing a substantial increase in all the districts except Oran. The gain is attributable to the high prices prevailing in the fish market. The figures for the two years in the various districts are as follows:

Districts.	1917	1918	Districts.	1917	1918
Algiers	$491,735	$600,072	Bona	$95,755	$126,779
Oran	655,456	677,365			
Philippeville	187,155	232,896	Total	1,430,101	1,637,112

Receipts of Railway Lines.

The total length of the main railway lines in Algeria on December 31, 1918, was 3,545 kilometers (2,203 miles). The increase in 1918 was 47 kilometers (29 miles), due to the incorporation of the line from Ain-Oussera to Haci-Bahbah.

The total receipts for the railway lines in 1918 amounted to 79,398,853 francs ($15,323,979), against 69,085,763 francs ($13,333,552) in 1917, a gain of 10,313,090 francs ($1,990,427). In 1917 the rates for passengers and fast freight were increased 10 per cent and the regular freight 5 per cent of the preceding schedules. During the last half of 1918 the rates were increased to 25 per cent. A curtailed service and an increase in rates readily explain the fact that all Algerian lines had increased receipts in 1918, despite the circumstance of war.

The passenger service and goods transported by fast freight supplied 49 per cent of the total receipts of the Algerian railways. The remaining 51 per cent was from the transportation of goods by regular freight. The total receipts for passenger service in 1918 were 33,303,032 francs ($6,427,485), against 27,840,308 francs ($5,373,179) in 1917; for merchandise transported by fast freight, 5,564,392 francs ($1,073,928), against 4,452,869 francs ($859,404); and for goods carried by regular freight, 40,441,428 francs ($7,805,195), against 36,792,585 francs ($7,100,969).

Larger Number of Passengers Carried.

Although the number of trains was smaller than in preceding years, the number of persons carried was much greater. As a result, the service has been poor and the trains greatly congested. The increase in passenger travel is attributed to the movement of men on leave and their families; the scarcity and high price of gasoline, limiting automobile travel; troop transportation; high wages for agricultural, commercial, and industrial labor; greater native attendance at markets; and the discontinuance of coastwise shipping on account of submarine warfare.

There was a marked increase in the amount of goods transported by fast freight. This was due to increased difficulty in shipping by regular freight and to the higher prices of merchandise, warranting transportation by the best means available.

There was no increase in the rolling stock in 1918, and improvements and repairs work were reduced to a minimum. The high price of materials (particularly of coal), the difficulty in securing supplies regularly, and the scarcity of skilled workmen were all deterrent factors.

Government Finances.

The receipts and expenditures of the three Departments for 1917, the latest year for which statistics are available, were as follows:

Departments.	Receipts.			Expenditures.		
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.
Algiers	$1,380,761	$1,385,404	$2,766,165	$1,045,751	$779,758	$1,825,509
Oran	865,314	158,465	1,023,779	591,928	78,492	670,420
Constantine	1,678,903	66,838	1,745,741	1,062,024	49,484	1,111,508

At the close of the year 1917 the debt of the three departments was as follows: Algiers, $9,209,834; Oran, $1,466,155; Constantine, $5,063,515; making a total of $15,739,504.

The total receipts of the Government-General from all sources for the year 1918 were estimated at $5,563,181 in excess of those for the year 1917. The gain is attributed to increased taxes of various kinds and higher rates charged by public utilities. These increases occurred in practically all branches of the Government and were made necessary by the budgetary deficit resulting from war conditions and notably by the allowances granted Government employees to offset the high cost of living.

Principal Sources of Revenue.

Government receipts for 1917 and 1918, by categories, are given below. For the latter year the figures are provisional, as payments for the calendar year of 1918 are not complete before April 30, 1919.

Sources.	1917	1918	Sources.	1917	1918
Direct taxes	$984,780	$1,731,221	Telephone service	$305,026	$428,402
Internal revenue	62,467	63,569	Public forests	712,856	891,382
Arab taxes	1,504,235	1,622,678	Other public domain	576,188	579,022
Registry tax	1,678,538	2,711,166	Income from securities, etc	236,196	235,911
Stamp tax	862,949	914,243	Railroad revenue, etc	3,303,872	4,719,302
Personal property tax	123,627	145,372	Other	4,358,163	5,531,901
Customs dues	3,283,738	3,477,322	Total	19,584,815	25,147,996
Postal service	1,065,912	1,385,586			
Telegraph service	526,268	710,919			

The postal, telegraph, and telephone receipts in 1918, despite the difficulties incident to the war, were considerably higher than during the preceeding years; this was due principally to higher charges for domestic services but in part to an improvement in the economic situation toward the end of the year. No extensions were possible because of limited personnel and the inability to secure material.

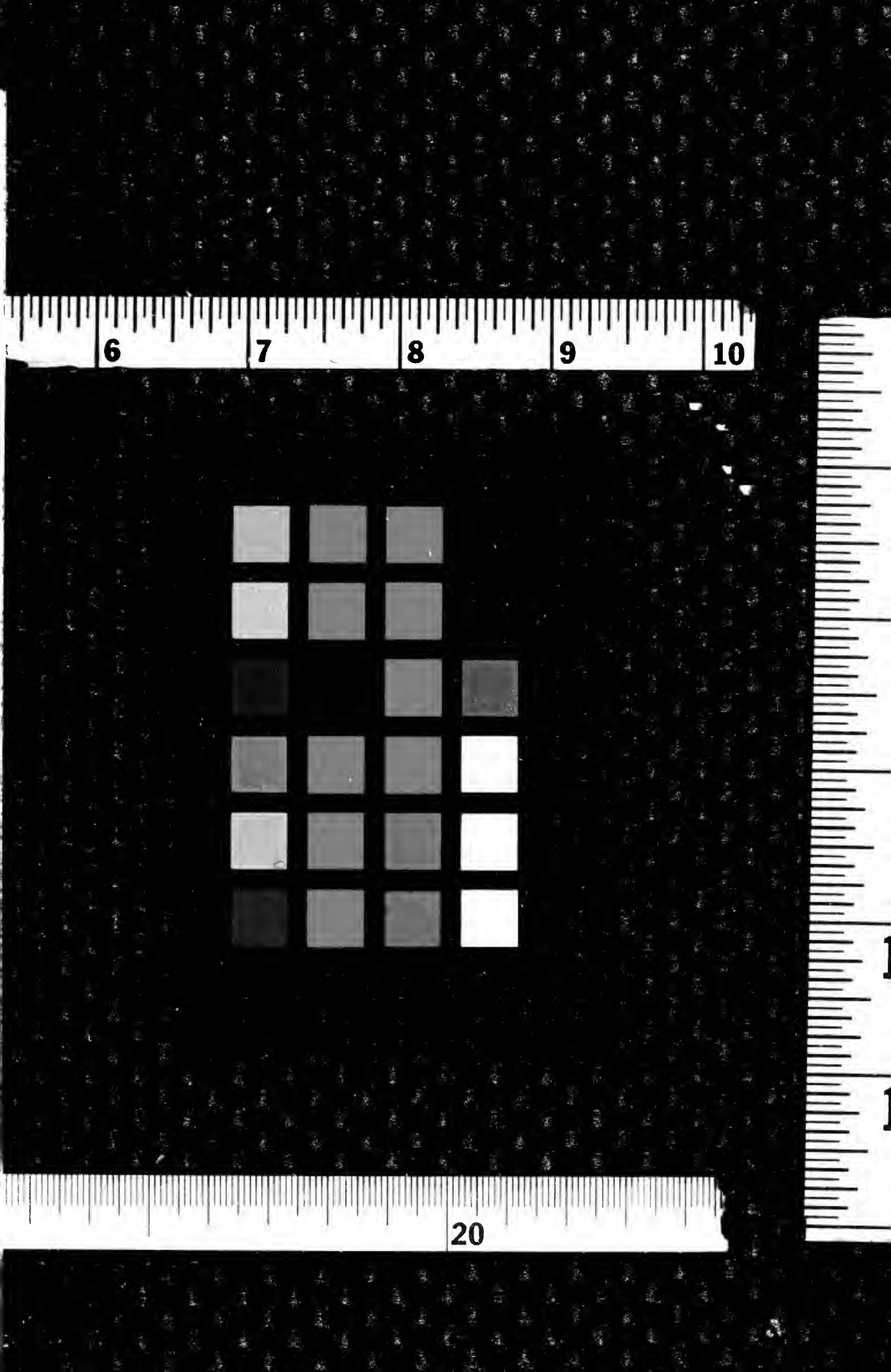
The subscriptions made by Algeria to the war loans give some indication of the financial strength of the colony, $27,565,997 being subscribed in 1915, $35,334,633 in 1916, $33,278,990 in 1917, and $108,924,182 in 1918, making a total of $205,103,802.

In this report francs have been converted into dollars at the normal rate of $0.193. The average bank selling rate on dollars in Algeria during the year was 5.73 francs.

WASHINGTON : GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1919

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
3 1262 08485 2960

UNIV. OF FL LIB.
DOCUMENTS DEPT.
ADD
U.S. DEPOSITORY


6
7
8
9
10
20